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ABSTRACT

Intended for language arts teachers at both the elementary and the secondary school levels, this bibliography contains annotations of novels and short story collections. The 35 titles annotated include mysteries, romances, and histories. Suggested grade levels are listed with each title, and a directory of publishers is included. (HTH)

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ADVISORY LIST OF INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA: FICTION

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ADVISORY LIST OF INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA

FICTION

Adler, C.S. GET LOST, LITTLE BROTHER. 154 p. $9.95. Clarion/T&F, 1983. Grades 5-7

Story about two older brothers who enjoy making life miserable for their eleven-year-old brother, Todd; deciding to free himself of his twin brothers' harassment, Todd claims for himself a small island near their home; allowing new friend Lou to share his island, he soon finds that she and his two brothers are taking it over; surprisingly, when Todd, Lou, and his brothers begin to work together, Todd becomes an accepted member of the team

Benchley, Peter. THE GIRL OF THE SEA OF CORTEZ. 237 p. $13.95. Doubleday, 1982. Grades 7-12

Beautiful story about Paloma, a young island woman who lives in her own magical ocean world; taught by her father to love the sea and its creatures, Paloma fights to keep a sea mount (a submerged volcanic peak) unspoiled while the islanders threaten to destroy all the nearby marine life, seeing the area only as a prime fishing spot; descriptive narration offers fascinating look at underwater diving and marine biology; especially good for students who, like Paloma, have beliefs that set them apart from their community and therefore "march to the beat of a different drummer"

Brown, Dee. KILLDEER MOUNTAIN. 279 p. $14.45. Holt, 1983. Grades 9-12

Historical novel which examines America's recovery from the Civil War as seen through the eyes of Sam Morrison, a cynical young journalist; on assignment in Missouri, Sam finds himself in the middle of a controversy over a dead war hero; Sam must determine whether the dead soldier is in fact a hero worthy of having a fort named after him, or if he disgraced himself and his army in a battle with Indians at Killdeer Mountain; by the author of Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee; for sophisticated readers interested in historical fiction with a western flavor

Cheatham, K. Follis. THE BEST WAY OUT. 168 p. $9.95. Harcourt, 1982. Grades 7-9

Thought-provoking story of a black student who becomes a victim of public school integration; details how Haywood, a student with great potential, is moved to another school where he becomes a misunderstood, resentful, apathetic, and confused young man; through the support and guidance of a concerned counselor, Haywood once again becomes an excellent student and regains his self-respect and desire to earn a diploma; especially suitable for teenage students who may have had similar experiences or for those who often think of quitting school; relatively easy reading with large print

Clapp, Patricia. WITCHES' CHILDREN: A STORY OF SALEM. 160 p. $9. Lothrop, 1982. Grades 6-12

Young Mary Warren becomes embroiled in the hysteria surrounding the Salem witchcraft trials; in order to escape her rigid Puritan social restrictions, Mary and her young friends begin to act strangely and accuse community members of being witches; Mary becomes aware of the consequences of her actions and renounces her role in the tragedy; realistic examination of Puritan society and the individuals involved in this grim page of history; good supplementary reading for study of early colonial times

Cleary, Beverly. RALPH S. MOUSE. 160 p. $7.63. Morrow, 1982. Grades 1-4

More adventures of Ralph, the persevering, vulnerable mouse hero who cheerfully triumphs over adversity; this new adventure takes him inside a school where he is introduced as Ralph S. Mouse, the S. for Smart; as part of a class project, Ralph is made to run a maze in a mouse exhibit to prove how smart he is; once again Beverly Cleary displays the imaginative humor and other elements that combine to make Ralph a popular favorite with young readers

Cleaver, Vera and Bill. HAZEL RYE. 178 p. $11.89. Lippincott, 1983. Grades 5-7

Hazel Rye is a feisty, incorrigible eleven-year-old Southern heroine who doesn't care about anything except getting her ears pierced, making three hundred dollars a week driving a taxi, and of course, quitting school; after refusing to allow the ear piercing, Hazel's father gives her an unused three-acre citrus grove as a peace offering; when her father allows a widow and her three children to live in the cabin on the grove, Hazel is furious until she meets the twelve-year-old son; Hazel's relationship with the impoverished family changes her life, especially her values and interest in becoming educated

Conford, Ellen. IF THIS IS LOVE, I'LL TAKE SPAGHETTI. 165 p. $8.95. Four Winds, 1983. Grades 6-9

Collection of nine lively short stories about surviving as a teenage girl; convincingly explains how, despite the trials and tribulations these heroines encounter, their spirit common sense, and humor get them through; easy, fast-moving text, delightful characterizations, and humorous dialogue combine to make entertaining reading, especially for reluctant teenage readers

Davis, Gibbs. SWANN SONG. 179 p. $9.95. Bradbury, 1982. Grades 9-11

Sensitive, realistic story about three fifteen-year-old girls focuses on their friendships, ambitions, insecurities, and budding romances; deals with real-life concerns of teenage girls including first dates, body changes, getting a driver's license, losing a loved one; situations are handled in a kind and sympathetic way, without sensationalism; captivating reading for teenage girls

Fleischman, Paul. GRAVEN IMAGES: THREE STORIES. 85 p. $9.89. Har-Row, 1982. Grades 7-9

Three captivating short stories, each about a graven image--a wooden carving of a sailor, a copper weathervane depicting St. Crispin, and a marble sculpture commissioned by a ghost; young teens become involved in mystery, romance, and comedy in historic settings of Maine, Charleston, and Genoa; 1983 Newbery Honor Book; most appealing for the sophisticated reader

Fleischman, Paul. PATH OF THE PALE HORSE. 147 p. $9.89. Har-Row, 1983. Grades 6-9

Fascinating information about the practice of medicine in the late 1700's gives this story an authentic ring; using the 1793 yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia as a backdrop for the drama, the author tells the story of Lep, a fourteen-year-old apprentice to Dr. Peale; primarily a study of the characters young Lep encounters as he tries to administer medical help and, at the same time, discover his own limitations; especially good for emphasizing progress in the practice of medicine

Garcia, Ann O'Neal. SPIRIT ON THE WALL. 181 p. $9.95. Holiday, 1982. Grades 5-8

Em, a handicapped Cro-Magnon child, is saved by her grandmother from ritual death at birth; story chronicles the growth of Em within the loving relationship she shares with her grandmother and brother and her development into a remarkable artist; convincing story about a lame, talented young Stone Age child will warm the hearts of today's youth as it challenges their imagination

Hartman, Evert. Translated from the Dutch by Patricia Crampton. WAR WITHOUT FRIENDS. 218 p. $10.95. Crown, 1982. Grades 7-12

Fifteen-year-old Arnold examines the cherished beliefs of his father, an ardent Nazi supporter during World War II in Holland; ostracized by his peers, Arnold is unable to cope with party dogma in the face of German brutality and the bravery of resistance workers; translated from the original Dutch, the story offers a compelling look at the complexities of the German occupation; contains mild profanity, e.g., "bastard," "damnation"

Hoke, Helen, sel. GHASTLY, GHOULISH, GRIPPING TALES. 160 p. $9.90. Watts, 1983. Grades 7-10

Anthology of nine short stories featuring ghosts, deadly beetles, killer ants, a woman who changes places with a spider, mutilation and revenge, and even a captivating fable; some of the stories are more imaginative and better written than others but overall, collection offers exciting reading for students interested in suspense and the macabre

L'Engle, Madeline. AND BOTH WERE YOUNG. Rev. ed. 241 p. $13.95. $2.50 paper. Delacorte, 1983. Grades 7-9

Story of Philippa Hunter, a homesick American girl in a Swiss boarding school; naive and not as sophisticated as the other girls, Flip prefers to spend time alone until she meets Paul, a French boy; the evolving friendship between them gives her a newfound confidence and ultimately benefits them both: most teen readers will identify with Flip's struggle for acceptance among her peers as well as her attempts to resolve the complications of first love

MacDonald, Reby Edmond. THE GHOSTS OF AUSTWICK MANOR. 144 p. $9.95. Atheneum, 1982. Grades 6-9

Don MacDonald, a teenager living in British Columbia, learns that he is the heir to an ancient Scottish family when he inherits, among other relics, an exact replica of the ancestoral Tudor home; soon after Don receives the model, strange happenings begin to occur and he and his sisters are drawn into the past to witness events in the family's history; Don's life is threatened and unexplained mystical events continue as the story unravels the ancient curse placed on the family; intriguing reading for fantasy lovers

McHugh, Elisabet. RAISING A MOTHER ISN'T EASY. 156 p. $9.50. Greenwillow, 1983. Grades 5-7

Touching story of Karen, an eleven-year-old Korean orphan, who is adopted by Barbara Bergman, a veterinarian; convinced that she has been taking care of her disorganized mother ever since they began their life together, Karen worries that when she is grown there will be no one to care for Barbara; determined to do the right thing for her mother, Karen sets out to find her a husband; humorous, heart-warming narration with a satisfying ending; especially interesting for students living with one parent

McKinley, Robin. THE BLUE SWORD. 272 p. $11.50. Greenwillow, 1982. Grades 7-12

This 1983 Newbery Honor Book is a romantic fantasy about an appealing heroine named Harry and a mythical kingdom; kidnapped by Corlath, king of the Damarians, Harry is compelled to follow in the footsteps of a legendary female warrior who led the Damarians into battle generations before; after extensive training for battle, Harry is entitled to carry the Blue Sword once borne by the famous woman warrior; a special treat for sword-and-sorcery fantasy lovers

Milton, Hilary. TORNADO! 147 p. $9.90. Watts, 1983. Grades 6-12

Disaster follows disaster in this exciting story as Janet Carson and her two children, Paul and Lisa, make their way along a deserted back road in the midst of a tornado; explodes with fast-paced action as Mrs. Carson injures her ankle and is pinned under a sapling, Lisa is bitten by a poisonous snake, the bridge is washed out, and the road closed off; excitement mounts as the tornado sweeps over them and Paul has to find some way to get help; use of authentic CB jargon between victims and rescuers adds convincing excitement

Molarsky, Osmond. SCRAPPY. 127 p. $8.95. Dodd, 1983. Grades 4-6

Lively story about an eleven-year-old tomboy called Scrappy (Laura Jean) who is the star of the neighborhood boys' soccer team; despising pretty girls and women too, Scrappy quits the team when a woman takes over as coach; once Laura Jean finally comes to grips with her own femininity and observes the new coach's success, she returns to the team; slight characterizations but will appeal to young female athletes

Myers, Walter Dean. WON'T KNOW TIL I GET THERE. 176 p. $10.95. Viking, 1982. Grades 7-10

The journal of fourteen-year-old Steve depicts the positive side of growing up black in the city; explores the relationship between youth and old age when a juvenile court judge orders gang members Steve, his foster brother Earl, and two friends to work the entire summer in an old people's home; authentic and humorous dialogue rings true and will appeal to teenagers; excellent characterizations demonstrate that group stereotypes including old, black, and delinquent are surprisingly different when given the opportunity to prove themselves; thought-provoking reading for teens

Newman, Robert. THE CASE OF THE THREATENED KING. 212 p. $10.95. Atheneum, 1982. Grades 5-9

Another installment in the mystery series featuring Inspector Wyatt of Scotland Yard and his young friends, Andrew and Sara; action is set in the late 1800's in London and the parallel to Sherlock Holmes is no accident; concerns a mysterious kidnapping and a plot to assassinate the King of Serbia; mystery, well-developed characters, interesting settings, fast-paced action contribute to make this a story which will appeal to mystery and action/adventure fans; while part of a series, book can stand alone

Park, Ruth. PLAYING BEATIE BOW. 196 p. $9.95. Atheneum, 1982. Grades 6-9

Fourteen-year-old Abigail is transported back in time to live in the Australia of 100 years ago where she soon realizes that she has been sent back in time because she has "the gift" to foresee the future; fantasy traces Abigail's experiences in the Victorian world and the effect it has on her attitudes once she comes back to her own time; named best children's book of 1981 in Australia, it features some Australian spelling and old dialect; good for students interested in fantasy

Peck, Robert Newton. SOUP IN THE SADDLE. 110 p. $9.99. Knopf, 1983. Grades 4-7

Author's sixth book about the escapades of Soup and Rob traces the heroics, havoc, and hilarity of the two boys as they accidently find a saddle, then a horse, and then come to the rescue of their beloved teacher, Miss Kelly; as usual, Soup and Rob develop a wild scheme to save the day from certain catastrophe; charcoal drawings illustrate text; fun reading for young would-be cowboys

Roos, Stephen. MY HORRIBLE SECRET. 119 p. $10.95. $2.25 paper. Delacorte, 1983. Grades 4-6

Slight, amusing story about eleven-year-old Warren trying to live up to his older brother's reputation of being a superjock; Warren's horrible secret is that he is inept at hitting or catching a baseball; making matters worse, Warren's parents are sending him to Camp Hit-a-Homer for the summer; fortunately, Warren breaks his arm and doesn't have to go to camp but does have to play in a ball game to save face; when he, unbelievably, makes the crucial catch of the day, Warren breaks his arm once again; humorous, lively, and likeable reading for young would-be or won't-be ball players

Ruckman, Ivy. WHAT'S AN AVERAGE KID LIKE ME DOING WAY UP HERE? 118 p. $11.89. Delacorte, 1983. Grades 5-8

When seventh-grader, Norman Gates, learns that his school is to be closed, he sets out to save it; when all other plans fail, Norman and teacher Mrs. Adelsack organize a camp-out on the school roof; contributing subplots include whether his dentist father will return from a mountain-climbing expedition and getting classmate, Lisa, to notice him; delightfully upbeat reading of a timely topic from beginning to everything-works-out end

Sachs, Marilyn. BEACH TOWELS. 76 p. $9.66. Dutton, 1982. Grades 5-8

Fast-paced story about a teenage girl and boy who meet at the beach and spend the remainder of the summer getting to know each other; realistic narration depicts typical jealousy, rivalry, inhibitations, and insecurities of teens; illustrated with black-and-white drawings; short text primarily written in dialogue will make excellent selection for reluctant readers

Schwartz, Joel L. UPCHUCK SUMMER. 148 p. $9.89. Delacorte, 1982. Grades 6-8

Humorous chronicle of the summer camp activities of twelve-year-old Richie; an outstanding camper in past years, Richie faces a difficult summer when his nemesis, Chuck, not only makes life miserable for him but also helps him save face with his peers; upon not being chosen a team captain for the camp olympics, Richie finally realizes his self-centeredness; convincing, easy-to-read story concentrates on male adolescent concerns, including anatomical development, reading "dirty" books, dating girls--but in an entertaining, nonsensationalized manner; some profanity used, but never out of character for teenage boys; sure to please all adolescent readers

Shura, Mary Francis. ELEANOR. 122 p. $8.95. Dodd, 1983. Grades 4-6

Readers will once again delight in the trials, tribulations, and outlandish antics of the gang at Millard C. Fillmore Elementary first introduced in Chester; hilarity abounds when the gang faces the challenge of building a float to represent their school in a field day celebration for onetime student, now basketball superstar, "Pogo" Lambert; when the float, seemingly jinxed from the start, becomes a soggy mess the day before the parade, it is Eleanor who devises a miraculous plan to save the day; enjoyable reading laced with typically funny dialogue; black-and-white watercolors interspersed throughout text; high-interest, low-vocabulary choice

Skurzynski, Gloria. THE TEMPERING. 178 p. $10.95. Clarion/T&F, 1983. Grades 8-12

Compelling story of three young men growing up in a Pennsylvania steel-mill town in 1912; Karl wants to quit school and become a steelworker, Jame is in love with Karl's sister and wants to get married, and Andy feels strongly about the rights of immigrant steelworkers; how the three teenagers deal with their individual dreams is the crux of the book; especially good presentation of a bygone era, ethnic customs, and believable working-class characters; thought provoking for young adults

Townsend, John Rowe. KATE AND THE REVOLUTION. 219 p. $11.89. Lippincott, 1983. Grades 7-12

Contemporary satire about love, ambition, adventure, and revolution starring seventeen-year-old Kate as the leading lady and Rudi, Crown Prince of Essenheim, as her knight in shining armor; Kate, invited to visit Rudi's principality, encounters revolution after revolution; slapstick melee ensues with the people of the tiny principality taking over; delightful farce offering tongue-in-cheek entertainment for teens

Voight, Cynthia. DICEY'S SONG. 196 p. $10.95. Atheneum, 1982. Grades 6-9

This 1983 Newbery Award Book is a continuation of the story, which began in Homecoming, about the four Tillerman children who are now safe and secure living with Gram in Maryland; tired of mothering the younger children since Momma's death, Dicey hopes to have some time to herself to adjust to her new life; getting rid of old problems and sorrows is not so easy, and Dicey soon realizes that she cannot relinquish her need to watch and worry about the children; engrossing story with well-developed, likable characters; especially good sequel, but can stand alone as a heart-warming story for teens

Wallin, Luke. BLUE WINGS. 213 p. $9.95. Bradbury, 1982. Grades 5-8

Adventurous mystery story about a fourteen-year-old girl's experiences after acquiring a rare and beautiful Scarlet Macaw parrot; traces the efforts of Mandy, her father, and her aunt, who works for U.S. customs, to save tropical birds from smugglers; excitement and suspense abounds when Mandy is kidnapped by the smugglers; plot develops quickly and smoothly and tells an important story relating to honesty and decision-making; appropriate for use in values clarification discussions and conservation studies

Wilkes, Marilyn Z. C.L.U.T.Z. 120 p. $9.89. Dial, 1982. Grades 4-6

Imaginative story of the Pentax family, a family of the future, who need a robot for household duties; an outdated robot, a Combined Level Unit/Type Z robot, stumbles into the Pentax home; the robot, known by his acronym, CLUTZ, and looking like C3PO of STAR WARS, wins the hearts of the family and becomes a special friend to young Rodney; the futuristic family's adventures with their outdated robot are both amusing and fast paced; clearly written text relates to many things which students can identify and understand; good addition to science fiction collection

Wolkoff, Judie. HAPPILY EVER AFTER...ALMOST. 215 p. $10.95. Bradbury, 1982. Grades 6-9

Written in the first person, this lively, fast-paced narrative brings to life the problems that many students from broken homes face today; details the marriage of Kitty and Sarah's mother to R.J.'s father and the merging of the two families; story offers amusement, drama, and a cast of interesting characters while concentrating on divorce, remarriage, and custody troubles; light, upbeat reading especially good for students learning to cope with a broken home

DIRECTORY OF PUBLISHERS

Atheneum - Atheneum Publishers, 597 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10017

Bradbury - Bradbury Press, Inc., 2 Overhill Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583

Clarion/T&F - Clarion Books, 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, 6th Floor, New York, New York 10017

Crown - Crown Publishers, Inc., One Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Delacorte - The Delacorte Press, One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, New York 10017

Dial - The Dial Press, One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, New York 10017

Dodd - Dodd, Mead and Company, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Doubleday - Doubleday & Company, Inc., 501 Franklin Avenue, Garden City, New York 11530

Dutton - E.P. Dutton, 2 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Four Winds - Four Winds Press, 50 West 44th Street, New York, New York 10036

Greenwillow - Greenwillow Books, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Har-Row - Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., 10 East 53rd Street, New York, New York 10022

Harcourt - Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 757 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017

Holiday - Holiday House, Inc., 18 East 53rd Street, New York, New York 10022

Holt - Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., 521 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10175

Knopf - Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 201 East 50th Street, New York, New York 10022

Lippincott - J.B. Lippincott Company, 10 East 53rd Street, New York, New York 10022

Lothrop - Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Morrow - William Morrow & Company, Inc., 105 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Viking - The Viking Press, Inc., 625 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022

Watts - Franklin Watts, Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016